

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 1-18 were previously pending.

B. Restriction Requirement

The Office Action mailed April 6, 2007 requires restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 35 U.S.C. §372 to one of the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-13, drawn to a carrier housing/processing apparatus; and
- II. Claims 14-17, drawn to a carrier housing/processing method.

Although the Office Action mailed April 6, 2007 did not specify the group to which currently-pending claim 18 belongs, Applicant assumes that claim 18 is included in Group II as this claim is dependent upon any one of claims 14-17.

Applicant hereby elects with traverse, for prosecution herein, the claims of Group I, that is, claims 1-13.

If the Examiner maintains as final the restriction requirement between the claims of Groups I and II as noted above, Applicant will take the position that the Examiner has admitted one group of claims to be patentable over the other, and that any prior art must be closer to the elected group of claims than the non-elected group of claims to render the elected group of claims unpatentable.

C. Election-of-Species Requirement

If the claims of Group I are elected, then the Office Action mailed April 6, 2007 indicates that an election of species is required. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- a particle (claim 4);
- a block member (claim 4);
- a sheet member (claim 4);
- a wire-like member (claim 4);
- an indeterminate member (claim 4);
- a member having through holes (claim 8);
- a permeable membrane member (claim 8);
- a porous member (claim 8);

- a mesh member (claim 8);
- a glass (claim 13); and
- a surface coated with a glass (claim 13).

Since the claims of Group I are elected, as noted above, Applicant hereby elects with traverse, for prosecution herein, the species of a particle. Claims 1-7 and 9-12 read on the species of a particle.

If the Examiner maintains as final the election-of-species requirement as noted above, Applicant will take the position that the Examiner has admitted one species to be patentable over the other species, and that any prior art must be closer to the elected species than any of the non-elected species to render the elected species unpatentable.

Applicant acknowledges that upon the allowance of one or more generic claims, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species as provided by 37 C.F.R. §1.141.

D. Conclusion

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Office Action mailed April 6, 2007 have been addressed. Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowability of elected claims 1-7 and 9-12 are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would expedite consideration of the elected claims, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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